UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

March 6, 1950

To: PMA Offices, Midwest Area

From: John C. Baker, Chief, Information Branch, Chicago

POULTRY BRANCH

Members of the Poultry Branch and of the Inspection and Grading Division of the Dairy Branch will meet with industry representatives in Chicago, March 8, to discuss plans for a study which is designed to provide a basis for the establishment of standards and grades for frozen eggs. The study will be started in March in several egg freezing plants to be selected at the meeting. Objectives of the study, which will be conducted under a marketing research project, will be to determine methods of processing, sampling and testing that bring about uniform results and which will permit the establishment of standards and grades, now non-existent for frozen eggs.

CCC last week offered for sale about 124,000 pounds of inedible dried eggs in barrels and 56-pound fiber containers, "as is and where is." Purchasers must have the dried eggs denatured at their expense and under supervision of an inspector approved by USDA. This must be done before the eggs can be removed from their present locations.

While purchases of dried whole eggs for price support purposes continued heavy last week at 1,971,810 pounds, underlying strength in the market was reflected in generous cancellations of previous offers amounting to 515,136 pounds. The week's transactions left a net total purchase for the year to date of 11,538,255 pounds, roughly comparable to the quantity bought for price support during the same period last year.

Export sales last week totalled 23,871 pounds, making the over-all total 2,463,158 pounds since the export program was launched in September, 1948.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

Louisiana strawberries should be really underway around March 25.

Spring potatoes will start moving in Texas in mid-March and tomatoes in late March.

The first national conference of all fresh fruit and vegetable shipping point inspection supervisors will be held in Chicago during the week of March 6-11.

(more)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH (Cont'd)

U. S. standards for grades of canned black-eye peas and canned field peas will be placed in clearance channels for publication within the next 10 days.

Purchase of 1949 crop potatoes through February 28 totaled 17,980,706 hundredweight. Of this amount, 2,108,500 hundredweight went to direct distribution; 421,790 to flour; 2,918,019 to starch; 104,766 to glucose; 25,920 to dehydration; 265,067 to alcohol; 11,313,656 to livestock feed; and 822,988 hundredweight to export.

Purchase of 1950 potatoes through February 28 totaled 22,955 hundredweight. Of this amount 13,403 hundredweight went to livestock feed; 5,405 to Section 416; and 4,148 hundredweight to penal institutions.

As of February 25 contracts had been reported for the export of 1,579,750 hundredweight of potatoes; 856,350 hundredweight of this amount had been delivered. Destination of these exports included: Ceylon, Portugal, Curacao, Venezuela, Republic of Panama, Spanish Morocco, Liberia, Belgium, Spain, and Israel.

Purchase of apples under the surplusremoval program through February 25 totaled 2,835,485 bushels at a cost of $7.483,865.

Export subsidy programs through February 25 stood at:

Apples, 1,677,529 bushels; $1,966,874.
Winter pears, 134,390 boxes; $168,657.
Fresh oranges, 230,579 boxes; $380,453.
Canned single strength orange juice, 20,027 cases No. 2's; $19,577.
Concentrated orange juice, 26,502 gallons; $38,424.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

Direct Distribution -- Since January 17 when potatoes became available under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, the States have placed orders for the immediate shipment of 483,000 bushels for distribution to school lunch programs, charitable institutions and welfare cases. Also under the new Act the States have ordered over 1-1/2 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids and, 571,000 pounds of dried eggs for distribution to these same outlets.

Plentiful Foods -- Plentiful foods on the April list include: Vegetables -- onions, carrots, cabbage, beets, Irish potatoes, canned corn, canned lima beans. Protein foods -- dry beans, fish (fresh and frozen), pork and pork products, eggs broilers, and fryers, hens, manufactured dairy products. Fruits -- apples, canned peaches, raisins and dried prunes. Items to be featured are: dry beans and onions.

DAIRY BRANCH

(*) The sale of about 44 million pounds of government-held nonfat dry milk solids to the Netherlands for animal feed purposes is being arranged by the Department as a result of an ECA authorization of funds for that purpose. The sales quantity consists chiefly of the oldest stocks now held by the government, purchases of which began about a year ago.

A new long-range method of establishing minimum farm prices for Class I-A milk has been included in the New York Federal order as a result of an amendment to the order announced February 24. The new formula will be used beginning August 1. Prices for the intervening months have been set at the following levels: March, $4.80 per hundredweight; April, $4.58; May, $4.36; June, $4.14; and July $4.58.

Amendments to the Chicago and Suburban Chicago Federal orders announced February 24 are expected to bring about an average decrease of 12.5 cents per hundredweight in the minimum farm prices for Class I, Class II, and Class IV milk inthose areas. The changes were made to bring the base level of prices in the market into closer alignment with prices being paid for manufacturing milk in the area.

Also announced last week was a public hearing to consider proposal for establishing a Federal order to regulate the handling of milk in the Memphis, Tenn., milk marketing area. It will be held March 20 in Memphis.

Price-Support Purchases and Sales, February 24 - March 2

(Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases Feb. 24-March 2	Total 1950* Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of March 3
Butter A	none	none	( )
Butter B	none	104,431	(86,584,518)
Butter C	none	none	( )
Cheese	none	88,006	20,536,843
Spray milk solids	6,134,644	39,450,510	97,682,575
Roller milk solids	2,196,825	15,634,263	131,035,650
	8,331,469	55,084,773	228,718,225

Product	Sales to Trade Feb. 24-March 2	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade*
Butter A	25,238	386,080
Butter B	167,925	7,799,068
Butter C	none	712,615
	193,163	8,897,763

(more)

(*) Contents of starred paragraphs not to be used in statements to trade or press.

DAIRY BRANCH (Cont'd)

Product	Sales to Trade Feb. 24-March 2	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade*
Cheese A	1,690,256	4,361,478
Cheese B	185,729	493,396
Cheese C	25,059	27,221
	1,901,044	4,882,095

* Corrected for delivery adjustments through March 2.

TOBACCO BRANCH

Naval Stores

Prices received by producers for crude gum delivered to processing plants during the week ending February 25 averaged $20.82 per standard barrel of 435 pounds. This compares with the previous week's average of $21.01. The 23 reporting plants received 7,341 standard barrels of gum or 319 barrels per plant as compared with 337 barrels at these same plants a week ago.

FATS AND OILS BRANCH

Fats and oils markets have shown an upward tendency during the past week, with soybean and cottonseed oil, particularly remaining firm. Fairly large purchases were made by refiners and manufacturers.

The export market, however, was rather dull. Soybeans firmed up during the week with ample purchases by crushers. There are no large stocks of vegetable oils on hand at present as compared with the quantities existing at this time last year. Lard continued to move into export quite freely as in the recent past because of large Government purchases.

RELEASES OF THE WEEK

Olive Oil Removed from Import Control -- February 23, 1950
Wheat Agreement Sales, Feb. 14-20, 3.2 million bu. -- February 24, 1950
Wire Ties Reduce Damage to Lettuce Crates in Test Shipments - February 27, 1950
Fruit and Vegetable Inspectors to Meet in Chicago March 6-11--Feb. 27, 1950
Meat Production Declines 5% in Week Ending February 25 -- Feb. 28, 1950
CCC Announces March Export Sales Prices for Surplus Commodities -- Feb. 28, 1950.
751,220,748 Bushels of 1949-Crop Grains and Oilseeds Under Price Support -- February 28, 1950
Far East Expected to Be Market for 90-120 Million Bushels of Wheat a Year -- March 1, 1950
Schedule Four March Meetings for Michigan Potato Growers and Handlers-- March 3, 1950

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
USE ONLY

March 14, 1950

TO: PMA offices, Midwest Area

From: Vincent P. Freymann, Acting Chief, Information Branch, Midwest Area

Vincent P. Freymann

POULTRY BRANCH

Purchases of dried whole eggs for price support purposes last week amounted to 1,841,771 pounds with cancellations at 159,880 pounds. All of the powder purchased last week was for March delivery. The transactions left a net total "buy" of 13,220,146 pounds since January 10, the first offer date under the 1950 program.

Sales of dried whole eggs for export last week totaled 23,800 pounds at 40 cents a pound, shipside, New York. Total sales under the export program now amount to 2,487,014 pounds.

(*) The Branch is considering an announcement under which the entire CCC holdings of price support turkeys will be offered for export sale at prices already made public (February 28). Buyers will be permitted to process and can the turkeys to be exported in this form, if they choose. So far, no acceptable offers have been received on the frozen dressed turkeys offered in December to domestic outlets.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

Purchase of 1949 crop Irish potatoes through March 7 totaled 19,633,827 hundredweight. Of this amount, 2,172,492 hundredweight went to direct distribution; 464,994 to flour; 3,187,007 to starch; 104,766 to glucose; 33,570 to dehydration; 359,385 to alcohol; 12,196,395 to livestock feed; 1,097,458 to export; 16,410 hundredweight to on-farm disposition; and disposition of 1,350 hundredweight is as yet unreported.

Purchase of 1950 crop Irish potatoes through March 7 totaled 35,111 hundredweight. Of this amount, 20,852 hundredweight went to livestock feed; 9,516 to Section 416; and 4,743 to penal institutions. All purchases continue to be No. 2's in Florida.

Purchase of apples under the surplus removal program through March 4 totaled 2,923,508 bushels, at a cost of $7,721,527.

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(*) Contents of starred paragraphs should not be used in statements to trade or press.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH (Cont'd)

Status of the export subsidy programs, as of March 4, was:

Apples, 1,725,552 bushels; $2,027,032
Winter pears, 134,930 boxes; $168,657
Fresh oranges, 287,029 boxes; $457,595
Canned single strength orange juice, 30,027 cases No. 2's; $30,077
Concentrated orange juice, 27,825 gallons; $528,017

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

School Lunch

Reports on National School Lunch operations for December 1949, show that the number of children participating in the program has increased to a record 7,941,000. This is an increase of 15.2 percent over December 1948.

DAIRY BRANCH

The year's first price-support purchases of Grade A butter were made this week. A total of 156,730 pounds was purchased while sales of government butter stocks dropped to zero for the first week in 1950. Branch officials state this development heralds the return of the "into-storage" season for butter which usually begins in earnest about April 1 of each year.

Public hearings were announced last week to be held in Cincinnati March 13 and St. Louis March 15, to consider proposed changes in the Federal orders regulating the handling of milk in the two markets.

The Department last week recommended a minimum farm price for Class I milk in the Philadelphia market of $5.10 per hundredweight for April through June 1950. It also recommended a decrease of 10 cents per hundredweight in the Class II price March through July.

Price-Support Purchases and Sales, March 3-9:

(Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases March 3-9	Total 1950 Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of March 9
Butter A	156,730	156,730	(
Butter B	none	104,431	(86,486,000
Butter C	none	none	(
	156,730	261,161	
Cheese	none	88,006	19,073,309.62
Spray milk solids	5,063,356	43,082,134	(
Roller milk solids	1,727,830	17,863,493	(182,000,000
	6,791,186	60,945,627	

(more)

DAIRY BRANCH (Cont'd)

Product	Sales to Trade March 3-9	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade
Butter A	none	257,830
Butter B	none	5,525,366
Butter C	none	576,648
		6,359,844
Cheese A	609,675	5,295,986
Cheese B	270,347	802,883
Cheese C	278,291	305,512
	1,158,313	6,404,281

LIVESTOCK BRANCH

Last week the Branch requested wool handlers to obtain bids in line with current market prices from prospective wool buyers on remaining stocks of Department wool. Detailed instructions on this new sales policy will be sent to area wool offices, approved handlers and others early next week.

Major purpose of this move is to clear stocks of small lots of wool. With the inventory down to an extremely low level, there is an increasing proportion of wool that has not moved because it is in small lots, or because the wool is in a location that is not readily accessible for probable buyers, and in some instances the appraisal price is out of line with current market prices.

If acceptable bids are received for these small lots of wool, expense of re-appraising and re-grouping that otherwise would be needed to put the wool in a merchantable condition would be eliminated.

Handlers are being asked by the Branch to make recommendations on bids. Area wool offices will screen these offers and will recommend acceptance of those offers that they consider reasonable.

Area offices are also being given authority to re-examine any lots of wool that the handler feels is or was improperly appraised or has changed in condition since it was acquired by the Department and also to order transfer of wool from one handler to another when transfer will facilitate sale of the lot in question. Further, handlers are being given authority subject to approval of area wool offices to sell grease wool on the basis of a new core test.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND INVESTIGATION

A criminal information in 12 counts was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota against Paul D. Jones, Inc., Hollandale, Minn., charging violations of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended, and Marketing Order No. 60 regulating the handling of Irish potatoes grown in the States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

RELEASES OF THE WEEK

March 6 - 1950	USDA Reports Deliveries of Sugar and Dextrose.
	CCC Surveys Grain Storage Situation; Will Buy Some Additional Bins.
	WheatAgreement Sales, Feb. 21, 1950-Feb. 28, 1950.
	Status of CCC Price-Support Program as of Jan. 31, 1950.
March 7 - 1950	CCC Grain Purchases, Feb. 27 - March 3, 1950.
	State Acreage Allotments Announced for 1950 Crop Dry Edible Beans.
	Potato Industry Nominates Representatives North Central Potato Committee.
	Inspected Meat Production Up After Holiday Week.
	National Conference Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspectors at Chicago.
March 9 - 1950	Schedule Four Meetings for Minnesota Potato Growers and Handlers.
	Venezuela Issues New Egg Import Regulation.
	CCC Oilseed and Oil Purchases Feb. 27-March 3, and July-March.
March 10 -1950	Schedule Meetings for North Dakota Potato Growers and Handlers.
	CCC Awards Bin-Type Storage Contracts.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
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FOR ADMINISTRATIVEUSE ONLY

March 20, 1950

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

TO: PMA Offices, Midwest Area

FROM: John C. Baker, Chief, Information Branch, Midwest Area

DAIRY BRANCH

Disposition of government-owned nonfat dry milk is being confined to human food uses insofar as possible. Branch officials state that while some of the government's oldest stocks have been sold for animal feed use in Europe (44 million pounds to the Netherlands), it has not appeared advisable to sell government supplies in the domestic animal feed market.

They point out that such sales would depress feed prices and the returns to farmers who have feed for sale. Dried skim milk, buttermilk, and whey products are available in commercial outlets for animal feed at prices substantially below the prevailing market prices for nonfat dry milk solids for human use.

The government's stocks are available for sale in the domestic market and for commercial export at prices announced monthly. Stocks also are available for donation to private as well as public welfare organizations for the relief of needy persons in this country and to private welfare organizations for the relief of needy persons abroad. The stocks are offered free of cost to eligible agencies at point of storage. Shipping and handling costs from storage points must be borne by the agencies receiving the commodities under the Agricultural Act of 1949.

A decision to decrease by about 13 cents per hundredweight on an annual average basis, the minimum farm prices of Class I, Class II and Class IV milk in the South Bend-LaPorte, Ind., milk marketing area was announced last week. The proposed change would bring minimum farm prices in the area more nearly in line with those in the Chicago market and assist the marketing of supplies locally during the spring and summer months of heavy milk production. Before the decrease can go into effect, it must be approved by two-thirds of the dairy farmers regularly supplying the market.

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DAIRY BRANCH

Price-Support Purchases and Sales, March 10 through 16:

(Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases March 10-16	Total 1950 Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of Mar. 16
Butter A	1,310,156	1,466,886	(
Butter B	none	104,431	(87,555,984
Butter C	none	none	(
	1,310,156	1,571,317	
Cheese	none	88,006	19,043,000
Spray milk solids	5,050,815	48,116,866	(
Roller milk solids	2,842,550	20,686,043	(189,873,365 (
	7,893,365	68,802,909	

Product	Sales to Trade March 10 to 16	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade
Butter A	none	173,464
Butter B	none	4,738,802
Butter C	none	577,492
		5,489,758
Cheese A	none	5,464,820
Cheese B	29,817	844,096
Cheese C	none	305,513
		6,614,429

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

School Lunch -- LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, has completed a 30-day study of the extent to which cost of meals could be reduced by maximum use of donated foods. Preliminary reports show that cost to the pupil could be reduced to 15 cents per meal, with no losses reported, and with significant increase in participation.

St. Mary's School, Storm Lake, Iowa, reduced its meal cost from 25 to 20¢ per pupil, effective March 13. Credit is given to Section 6 and Section 32 foods, to make the reduction possible.

Trinity Lutheran School, Reese, Michigan, held open house February 7 and 8, to acquaint parents with the school lunch program. Parents comments:
"For 20 cents I could not give my child such nourishing food in his lunch bucket."
"My child is eating food she never ate at home."
"My children never come home hungry, as they did before."

POULTRY BRANCH

Dried whole egg purchases for price support last week dropped to a total of 1,346,320 pounds, the lightest purchases since the week of January 25. The buy was all for March delivery. Cancellations amounted to 188,570 pounds, which leaves the net total buy for the year to date at 14,377,896 pounds.

Export sales amounted to 21,875 pounds at 40 cents shipside, making total sales under the export program 2,508,889 pounds.

Final details for making a comprehensive study of methods for sampling and laboratory analysis of liquid and frozen eggs have been worked out by Branch and industry representatives who met recently at Chicago. The study will comprise a part of a research program being undertaken to set up standards and grades for frozen and dried egg products. It will involve taking more than 1,600 samples from 20 to 25 processing plants and the determination of color, solids, and bacteria counts of the samples. The study is expected to be completed by August and will be used to complete grading regulations and standards and grades for frozen and dried egg products.

For the first time this year, BAE's mid-month hatchery report indicates that farmers may carry out their intentions, expressed in February, to raise 12 percent fewer baby chicks this year than in 1949.

Based on information contained in the report, BAE predicts that the main hatching season for laying flock replacements will be shorter than last year. The report implies that without the present demand for broiler chicks, resulting from higher returns from broilers in the past fewweeks, the February hatch of baby chicks would have fallen considerably short of February production a year ago. As it was, February production was about the same as in the same month last year, with a total output of 139,751,000 head. This number figured 21 percent above the average output for the years 1944-48.

Placement of baby chicks in broiler areas, in contrast to demand for laying flock replacement chicks, was the heaviest of record for the period February 12 to March 4, according to the report.

Chicks booked March 1 for April delivery numbered 23 percent below the number booked on the same date last year, while present indications are that March hatchery output will be about the same as in March, 1949. These are further indications, according to Branch economists, that farmers plan to cut their laying flocks this year.

MARKETING AND FACILITIES RESEARCH BRANCH

A branch representative met last week with officials of the North American Car Croporation, Chicago, to arrange details of a study of refrigerator car practices for moving dressed beef by rail.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

A proposed revision of U. S. Standards for grades of canned apple juice has been placed in clearance channels for publication in the Federal Register as a notice of proposed rule making.

Purchase of 1949 crop potatoes through March 14 totaled 21,339,243 hundredweight. Of this amount, 2,250,037 hundredweight went to direct distributions; 527,198 to flour; 3,450,971 to starch; 104,766 to glucose; 40,320 to dehydration; 433,378 to alcohol; 13,164,244 to livestock feed; 1,209,333 to export; 9,033 hundredweight were dumped; a nd 149,965 to "on-farm."

Purchase of 1950 crop potatoes through March 14 totaled 53,288 hundredweight. Of this amount, 32,487 hundredweight went to livestock feed; 5,573 to penal institutions; and 15,228 to Section 416.

Purchase of apples under the surplus removal program through the week ending March 11 totaled 2,961,351 bushels at a cost of $7,823,705.

Through the week ending March 11 the export subsidy programs stood at:

Apples, 1,806,097 bushels: $2,127,603.
Winter pears, 134,930 boxes; $168,657.
Fresh oranges, 303,309 boxes; $484,457.
Canned single strength orange juice, 30,027 cases No. 2's; $30,077
Concentrated orange juice, 29,625 gallons; $42,908.

TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING BRANCH

Export of oils by PMA through Gulf ports has been retarded by lack of adequate ocean shipping space. Ateempts by the German Mission to secure better shipping rates for these oils have been unsuccessful because suitable space has been taken up by other shippers. A survey of shipping in the Gulf area indicates that the current shortage is not permanent and that a substantial amount of shipping space for oils is normally available.

A congested grain situation exists in the Gulf area, with the ports of Houston and Galveston suffering most. This situation should correct itself as soon as adequate foreign outlets are secured.

The final shipment of dried prunes and raisins to Germany was made on March 1 via a "commodity care" vessel. This completed a program which furnished Germany with approximately 40,000 tons of this dried fruit. Reports from Great Britain indicate that the first two shipments of dried prunes and raisins scheduled for that outlet have arrived in excellent condition. Dried prunes and raisins to fill these programs have been secured from 1948-1949 stocks located at storage points on the West Coast and the Natural Cooler Storage.

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The Transportation and Warehousing Branch cooperated with citrus shippers and receivers in negotiating an adjustment in the transportation rates on citrus fruit moving from California and Arizona to eastern destinations. Railroads operating in Eastern Territory agreed to reduce their rates four cents per hundredweight. A few weeks ago Southeastern railroads reduced their rates for the transportation of citrus to North Atlantic ports. This new rate of the Eastern Territory railroads brings their rates into equilibrium with reduced rates being charged by Southeastern railroads.

The branch also cooperated with poultry and dairy interests in securing an adjustment of transportation rates on roads in the official territory. A rate reduction of approximately 30 percent was negotiated on dairy and poultry products, excluding shell eggs.

RELEASES OF THE WEEK

Potato Advisory Committee Again Stresses Need for Utilization Research- March 10, 1950

U. S. Barley Standards Amended - March 10, 1950

USDA Boosts Milk Price 13¢ in South Bend-La Porte Milk Order - March 13, 1950.

CCC Buys 700,000 Bushels Wheat, March 6-10, 1950 - March 13, 1950

Week's Inspected Pork Production Up, Beef Below 1949 Level - March 14,1950

Grain Exports - July 1949-February 1950; 360 Million Bu. - March 15, 1950

Cooler and Freezer Occupancy Declines in February - Shell Egg Stocks Double- March 15, 1950

USDA Egg Purchase Program Continued for April at 25¢ Per Dozen - March 17,1950

Movement of Fall Pigs Brings Still Larger Supplies of Pork - March 16, 1950

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
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March 27, ~~1950~~

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

To: PMA Offices, Midwest Area

From: John C. Baker, Chief, Information Branch, Chicago, Ill.

DAIRY BRANCH

Government purchases and sales of dairy products under the present price support program will largely be taken over on April 1 by the eight PMA Commodity Field offices. To date such operations have been carried out by the Purchase and Sales Division of the Dairy Branch in Washington.

After April 1, the field offices will handle all purchases and sales of price support commodities which are made on the basis of announced price levels. All government purchases and sales made on the basis of competitive bids or "negotiations" with other U.S. government agencies or foreign governments and agencies will continue to be carried out through the Washington office.

The field offices are located in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New York, Portland, and San Francisco. Sales operations already are being carried out in Portland and San Francisco, but purchases through these offices will not be made until the beginning of next month when the new arrangement goes into effect in all offices.

The Department last week recommended three proposed changes in the Federal order regulating the handling of milk in the Fort Wayne, Ind., milk marketing area, one of which would reduce the milk marketing area to the city limits of Fort Wayne. The area at present includes a 4-mile belt circling the city, excluding New Haven.

Price-Support Purchases and Sales, March 17-23: (Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases March 17-23	Total 1950 Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of March 23
Butter A	2,171,880	3,640,766	(90,000,000
Butter B	45,456	149,887	
Butter C	none	none	
	2,217,336	3,790,653	
Cheese	60,989	148,995	19,500,000
Spray milk solids	6,996,865	55,113,732	200.000.000
Roller milk solids	2,960,900	23,646,943	
	9,957,765	78,760,675	

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DAIRY BRANCH (Cont'd)

Product	Sales to Trade March 17-23	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade
Butter A	None	257,829
Butter B	None	5,535,249
Butter C	None	603,297
		6,396,375
Cheese A	109,781	5,098,883
Cheese B	none	805,909
Cheese C	none	305,512
	109,781	6,210,304

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

Purchase of 1949 crop potatoes through March 21 totaled 23,185,600 hundredweight. Of this amount, 2,324,435 hundredweight went to direct distribution; 644,105 to flour, 3,729,073 to starch, 104,766 to glucose; 40,320 to dehydration; 448,040 to alcohol; 14,260,303 to livestock feed; 1,554,058 to export; and 80,500 dumped. (The "on-farm" category has been dropped. Totals formerly reported in that classification are now being classed as "livestock feed" or "dumped.") Purchases of 1948 potatoes through the same date last year totaled 67,544,065 hundredweight.

Purchase of 1950 crop potatoes through March 21 totaled 76,598 hundredweight. Of this amount, 51,092 hundredweight went to livestock feed, 17,738 to Section 416, and 7,768 to penal institutions.

Purchases of apples during the week ended March 18 under the surplus removal program totaled 47,669 bushels. Total purchases through March 18 amounted to 3,009,020 bushels or the equivalent of 4,896 carloads.

POULTRY BRANCH

Dried whole egg purchases for price support for the year so far now stand at 16,571,168 pounds, including the 2,459,141 pounds purchased last week, with cancellations of 265,869 pounds.

With the sale of 31,818,000 pounds of powder to the United Kingdom, as announced earlier last week, CCC now has aggregate holdings of 1948, 1949, and 1950 egg powder (the latter delivered or contracted for) amounting to 56,608,465 pounds.

In connection with the sale of dried eggs to the U.K. this week and with the varied interpretations given in news accounts of the financial transactions involved, it is of interest to recall that England has been a pretty good customer for this commodity in past years. The banner year in this respect was 1946 when the U.K. bought around 100 million pounds of egg powder from USDA at the cost price plus handling

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and brokerage. In fact, the entire buy of eggs for price support purposes that year, with the exception of a very small quantity, was sold to the British under a procurement -- not a price support -- program.

Purchases in 1947 were made on procurement and at clost plus brokerage terms for approximately 33 million pounds of powder, while an additional 5,500,000 pounds was taken of the eggs which had been purchased for price support by the Department that year. Thus, over a two-year period, the British bought, with their own dollars, a total of 138,500,000 pounds of dried whole eggs, representing the Department's entire buy one year and about half of the buy for the following year.

England was not a customer for U.S. dried eggs late in 1947 or through 1948 because of its unfavorable dollar position.

Of 1949 dried eggs, however, the British have taken through ECA about 6,152,000 pounds in addition to the 31,818,000 pounds just obtained. Thus, out of a grand total of about 176,470,000 pounds of dried whole eggs purchased by England since January 1, 1946, barely 38 million pounds have been obtained at "bargain" prices.

The facts show that Great Britain has spent many millions of its precious dollars for dried eggs.

FATS AND OILS BRANCH

Purchase agreements covering 5,731 tons of tung oil and 1,748 tons of tung nuts have been made under the 1949 tung support program announced February 6,1950. Latest available information from State offices indicates that only a comparatively small part of the tung nuts under purchase agreements will be delivered to CCC.

The vegetable oil markets remain firm, with more buyers than sellers, the latter holding in anticipation ofhigher prices. Soybeans have firmed up during the last ten days and now show signs of slight weakness, but it is a foregone conclusion that beans will not drop too lowin price because of the good demand for soybean oil. During the week there were at least three small shipments for export of soybean oil by private trade.

Inedible tallow is holding its own, which means that renderers are able to dispose of their inventories to the soapers but at lower than export prices. There is a considerable quantity of yellow grease available thatis not moving.

Linseed oil prices have weakened. New crop California oil has sold as low as 14-1/2 cents for June delivery.

CCC has disposed of the major portion of surplus peanuts acquired under the 1949 support program. Export commitments already made will probably require all the number 2 and oil stock shelled peanuts which it is estimated will be acquired during the next several weeks.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

Food Trades

In response to requests from growers, the Branch, in cooperation with Fruit and Vegetable Branch, is planning special emphasis on onions during April, with a special drive for the weekend of April 20, 21, and 22. Indications are that 1950's crop will be twice the size of last year's and well above average. A fact sheet on onions is now in preparation.

Direct Distribution

As of March 23, under the provisions of Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, State distributing agencies have ordered over 56 million pounds of potatoes, 3-1/2 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids, and 2 million pounds of dried eggs for distribution to all eligible outlets. Orders for potatoes are now being received at the rate of approximately 2 million pounds daily.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND INVESTIGATION

A criminal information in nine counts was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan charging C. J. Goodsell, Lansing, Michigan, with violations of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended and Marketing Order No. 60 regulating the handling of Irish potatoes grown in the States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. (Marketing potatoes below grades permitted by Marketing Order 60.)

A criminal information in four counts was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin charging Nick Dombrowski, Amherst Junction, Wisconsin, with unlawfully converting Government property to his own use. (Buying potatoes for use as livestock feed and then selling them for table use.)

RELEASES FOR THE WEEK

March 16 - USDA Announces Raisin Purchase; 1500 Tons.
March 16 - Wheat Agreement Sales, March 8-14; 14,837,000 Bu.
March 17 - Germany Admitted to International Wheat Agreement.
March 20 - CCC Grain Purchases, March 13-17, Total 2,793,016 Bu.
March 20 - CCC Oilseed and Oil Purchases March 6-17, and July-March.
March 20 - Extend Apple Export Program to May 1.
March 20 - PACA Report of 1949 Operations.
March 21 - Inspected Cattle and Sheep Slaughter Unchanged-
Hog and Calf Kill Up Last Week.
March 21 - USDA Sells 32 Million Pounds of Dried Whole Eggs to UK.
March 21 - Egg Quality Studied in NortheasternStates.
March 21 - Containers for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Surveyed in
New USDA Bulletin.
March 22 - New USDA Report Shows Fair Outlook for Fats and Oils
Exports to Western Europe.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

April 4, 1950

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

To: PMA Offices, Midwest Area

From: John C. Baker, Chief, Information Branch, Midwest Area
V. P. Freymann, Acting Chief

DAIRY BRANCH

Nine announcements concerning the pricing and classification of milk under various Federal orders were made during the past week:

A public hearing to consider a proposal for decreasing minimum farm prices for Class I and II milk in the Minneapolis-St.Paul milk marketing area will be held April 13 in Minneapolis, as announced March 24.

Changes in the pricing of surplus milk in the Knoxville, Tenn., milk marketing area, designed to encourage full utilization of such milk during the spring season of heaviest milk production, were announced March 28.

A Federal milk marketing order to regulate the handling of milk in the Oklahoma City, Okla., milk marketing area, effective May 1, was issued March 28.

A public hearing to consider a proposal for establishing a Federal order which would regulate the handling of milk in the Springfield, Mo., milk marketing area will be held in Springfield April 17, as announced March 28.

The USDA announced March 28 that it has amended the terms of the Federal order for the South Bend-La Porte, Ind., milk marketing area so as to decrease by about 13 cents per hundredweight, on an annual basis, the monthly minimum farm prices of Class I, Class II, and Class IV milk.

Also on March 28, the USDA announced the establishment of the minimum farm price for Class I milk in the Philadelphia milk marketing area at $5.02 per hundredweight April through June 1950 and the reduction of the minimum Class II price by 10 cents per hundredweight March through July.

Changes effective April 1 in the pricing of butterfat in the St.Louis milk marketing area, designed to encourage greater use of cream locally and expand outlets for locally-produced butterfat outside the marketing area, were announced March 29.

A Federal order to regulate the handling of milk in the Tulsa, Okla., milk marketing area, effective May 1, was announced March 29.

(contd)

DAIRY BRANCH (Cont'd)

Changes were made in the Toledo, Ohio, Federal order following a referendum in which dairy farmers approved a proposal for such action by more than a two-thirds vote. The principal change, as announcedMarch 29, will require milk handlers to make payments to a cooperative at the request of dairy farmers.

Price-Support Purchases and Sales, March 24-30:
(Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases Mar. 24-30	Total 1950 Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of Mar. 30
Butter A	3,112,898	6,763,663	(
Butter B	144,455	294,342	(93,500,000
Butter C	none	none	(
	3,257,353	7,058,005	
Cheese	423,222	572,217	19,900,000
Spray milk solids	6,364,335	61,465,242	(209,000,000
Roller milk solids	3,243,164	28,890,107	(
	9,607,499	88,355,349	

Product	Sales to Trade	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade
Butter A	none	257,829
Butter B	none	5,535,249
Butter C	none	603,297
		6,396,375
Cheese A	none	5,098,883
Cheese B	none	805,909
Cheese C	none	305,513
		6,210,305

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

School Lunches in D. C.

McKinley High School in the District of Columbia increased sales of plate lunches by almost 400 percent on the second day of its lower-price campaign. Following the pattern used in the campaign undertaken by the Garnet-Patterson Junior High School, the lower-price policy was announced in student assemblies and by letters to parents.

FOOD TRADES -- A recent bulletin of one of the nation's largest advertising agencies told its staff throughout the country about the Plentiful Foods Program, listing the food items on the list for April, and said: "Plug any of them you can tie-in promotions or any other ways." The agency will give support to the advertising of plantiful foods through this method every month. Somewhat similar "free" aid for plentiful foods is also being received from many other of the top advertising agencies.

(more)

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH (Cont'd)

Direct Distribution--A purchase of canned fruits, was made with Section 6 funds on Thursday, March 23, The total amounted to 451,002 cases, including canned peaches, apricots and plums. Distribution will be made to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

POULTRY BRANCH

Two carloads of price support turkeys were sold for export this week, the transaction marking the initial sale made since CCC offered its holdings early in December. The sale, which included 48,645 pounds, was made at a range of 25-1/2 to 28-1/2 cents a pound, f.a.s. The balance on hand stands at roughly 8,825,000 pounds.

Dried egg purchases continued fairly heavy, a total of 2,243,248 pounds being purchased for price support purposes this week, with cancellations amounting to only 154,402pounds. This was the second consecutive week in which purchases were well above 2 million pounds -- a circumstance which probably reflects the break in wholesale prices that started more than a week ago. On hand or contracted for delivery as a result of this week's transactionsisa total of 18,660,014 pounds of dried whole egg powder purchased so far this year, while of 1948,1949, and 1950 powder remaining in CCC hands the total is close to 60 million pounds.

Flexibility of the new grading and inspection regulations for ready-to-cook poultry may result in the broad use of the program by frozen food locker operators who process poultry in connection with their establishments. Many such operators are processors and distributors of poultry. Among them interest is growing in the use of the inspection and grading program in the retail marketing of their products.

In this connection, Melvin W. Buster of the Poultry Branch, with Lester Kilpatrick, Regional Grading Supervisor; A. T. Hepworth, New Hampshire State Grading Supervisor; and representatives of the New Hampshire State College of Agriculture and State Department of Agriculture, visited four food locker plants and attended a meeting in Concord to consider plans for the participation of such plants in the inspection and grading program.

Branch officials view the processing and retailing of poultry by food locker plants as a growing phase of the industry. Some 35 to 50 percent of the nation's 12,000 lockers are now engaged in processing poultry for their members on a custom basis. Many among this group are processing the poultry for retail sales to members and non-members.

The meeting at Concord was held for the purpose of discussing requirements for participation in the program, together with plant facilities, fees and other factors which could limit the use of the program because of the small volume of processed poultry many of these plants produce. Plans are being made to overcome this obstacle by applying the program, together with the official inspection and grading facilities necessary to a group of such plants rather than to individual plants to which the expense would be prohibitive.

FATS AND OILS BRANCH

Inedible Tallow and Grease -- A fair quantity was taken up by leading soapers this week, but this was confined to the higher grades. Not much export activity, andproducers are expecting higher prices.

Vegetable Oils -- Markets have remained firm, with reluctant sellers. Small sales reported during the week. Refiners indicate that prices may be lower.

Cottonseed Oil -- CCC has disposed of 10,000,000 pounds crude cottonseed oil at 13-1/8¢ per pound in line with the CCC Announcement of February 28, which showed the availability for domestic sales during March.

1950 Peanut Marketing Quota Program

On March 27, 1950, the Secretary issued an amendment to the Marketing Quota Regulations for peanuts of the 1950 crop. The amendment provides that if the total of the acreages required to establish allotments and reserves for eligible old farms and the acreage required to be available for new farm allotments (in accordance with Sections 729.110 to 729.127 of MQ-21-Peanuts) is less than the State allotment, the balance of such State allotment shall, upon approval by the Assistant Administrator for Production, be available for establishing new farm allotments.

1949 Crop Peanut Price Support Program Purchases and Sales. As of March 18, 1950, CCC had made the following purchases and sales of peanuts under the 1949 crop price support program:

	Purchases	Sales for Crushing	Sales for Edible Uses	Sales for Export
Farmers stock peanuts (tons)	37,249	12,642	11,891	--
No. 2 shelled peanuts (lbs)	390,466,221	332,735,419	--	57,730,802

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

An analysis has been completed of proposed revision of U. S. standards for grades of canned spinach and placed in clearance channels for final publication in the Federal Register.

New standards for grades of canned field peas and black-eye peas have been completed.

Purchase of sweetpotatoes through March 29 totaled 47,000 bushels.

Purchase of cabbage through March 28 totaled 5,500, 50-pound sacks - 4,000 sacks in Georgia and 1,500 sacks in Louisiana.

(more)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH (Cont'd)

Purchase of 1949 crop potatoes through March 28 totaled 25,061,431 hundredweight. Of this amount 2,404,506 hundredweight went to direct distribution; 651,561 to flour; 3,969,362 to starch; 104,766 to glucose; 40,320 to dehydration; 452,420 to alcohol; 15,237,809 to livestock feed; 1,884,558 to export; and 316,073 hundredweight have been reported as being dumped.

Purchase of 1950 crop potatoes through March 28 totaled 105,478 hundredweight. Of this amount 75,177 hundredweight went to livestock feed; 21,323 to Section 416; and 8,978 to penal institutions.

A total of 2,491,702 hundredweight of potatoes has been contracted for export and of this amount 1,323,120 hundredewight has been delivered.

Purchase of apples under the surplus removal program through March 25 totaled 3,068,313 bushels at a cost of $8,112,503.

Purchase of canned fruits for the School Lunch Program through March 25 totaled: peaches, 332,860 cases for $1,167,386; plums 72,842 cases for $190,531; and apricots, 45,300 cases for $199,889.

On March 25 the export subsidy program stood at:

Apples, 1,926,050 bushels; $2,258,307
Winter pears, 132,672 boxes; $165,835
Fresh oranges, 337,679 boxes; $541,168
Canned single strength orange juice, 33,627 cases No. 2's; $33,851
Concentrated orange juice, 31,287 gallons; $620,338

TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING BRANCH

An important Section 22 quotation secured by theBranch covering dried whole eggs moving via Western territory rail lines will permit storage at intransit points prior to reshipment for an additional twelve month period without a forfeiture of transit privileges. This quotation makes possible a potential saving of about 30 cents per hundredweight upon the movement to program outlets of dried eggs currently held in intransit storage in excess of 12 months. This privilege is not only applicable to shipments destined for export but can also be applied to shipments moving to domestic outlets. A second Section 22 quotation extends the time limit previously permitted by tariff for the intransit storage of linseed oil at Good Hope, La., before reshipment.

A program has been initiated to move to Long Beach, Calif., about 4 thousand tons of flaxseed from rice support stocks located in California and Arizona. This flaxseed is to be delivered during the first half of April to the Department of the Army for export to occupied area in the Pacific.

Initial movement of dried milk has been started in order to fill a recent Netherland requisition. Movement of approximately 5 million pounds are scheduled to meet a vessel at Houston.

(more0

TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING BRANCH (Cont'd)

Shipments of about 7 thousand tons of soybean and cottonseed oil located in the Gulf area were made in deep tanks of cargo vessels due to the inability of the German mission to secure a tanker for their movement. Approximately 14 million pounds of soybean and cottonseed oil will be made available during April in the Gulf area to the German Mission. ECA has directed that this Branch should offer these oils to the German Mission in quantities suitable for deep tank shipment rather than in larger tanker-type quantities.

On December 1, 1949, a program to encourage the construction of commercial warehouse facilities for the storage of grain was announced by the Office of the Administrator. Commercial storage guarantee agreements covering storage facilities having a capacity of approximately 73 million bushels have been entered into under this program, and over 100 applications for additional agreements are currently being processed by this Branch.

RELEASES OF THE WEEK

March 23 - Wheat Agreement Sales, March 15 - March 21
March 23 - USDA Food Deliveries Total 1,714 Million Pounds in November.
March 24 - Status of Purchases by Colonies Under IWA.
March 24 - California Potato Order Recommended.
March 24 - USDA Suspends 19 Dealers at Kansas City Stockyards.
March 27 - CCC Grain Purchases, March 20-24, 1950.
March 28 - CCC Completes Awards on Storage Structures.
March 28 - USDA to Buy, Sell Dairy Products Through Midwest Area Offices.
March 28 - Inspected Hog Slaughter 13% Under 1949 Week.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

April 10, 1950

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

To: PMA Offices, Midwest Area

From: John C. Baker, Chief, Information Branch, Midwest Area JCB

DAIRY BRANCH

Purchase and sale of dairy products by CCC was decentralized to area Commodity offices, as of April 1.

Price Support Purchases and Sales, March 31 - April 5:
(Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases Mar. 31-Apr. 5	Total 1950 Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of April 5
Butter A	2,969,609	9,731,272	(
Butter B	22,980	169,466	(96,300,000
Butter C	none	none	(
	2,992,589	9,900,738	
Cheese	406,496	978,723	20,100,000
Spray milk solids	6,155,570	67,607,302	(
Roller milk solids	2,664,441	29,554,548	(214,500,000
	8,820,011	97,161,850	(

Product	Sales to Trade March 31-Apr. 5	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade
Butter A	none	257,830
Butter B	none	5,535,249
Butter C	none	603,298
		6,396,377
Cheese A	none	5,132,931
Cheese B	none	891,077
Cheese C	none	332,868
		6,356,876

GRAIN BRANCH

State committee representatives of the Midwestern states met in Chicago last week with L.K. Smith, director of the Grain Branch, and other Branch representatives from Washington. Under discussion: procedures for wheat acreage allotments for 1951 crop.

(more)

GRAIN BRANCH (Cont'd)

(*) Officials returned from recent field meetings dealing with mechanics of grain loans "take-over" report State and county committees much better prepared to handle situation this year. Farm storage loans being redeemed in West and Southwest, and purchase agreement wheat being sold by farmers at 2 to 4 cents over loan values. Expectation is that not more than 225 million bushels of 1949-crop warehouse stored wheat may be taken over by CCC; assuming that most of the purchase agreement wheat is sold by farmers, total wheat "take-over" may be around 250 million bushels.

(*) Officials also report CCC will be in rice business this year, with a "take-over" of 5 to 6 million hundredweight.

Cumulative sales under International Wheat Agreement will pass 100-million bushel mark next week, leaving about 65 million to be sold through June in order to meet total revised quota of about 165 million for entire season. Heavy export program has been carded for April. Subsidies on sales to date have varied considerably, but trend has been upward since last fall. Subsidy off the Gulf started around 26 cents a bushel, is now 64 cents. Average subsidy to date on 96 million bushels is 52 cents a bushel, practically on the line of beginning estimates that subsidy would average 50 cents for entire season.

Purchase of 18,150,000 pounds of hard wheat blended flour for export to Greece before May 1 was announced on April 5. Total purchases of wheat flour since July 1, 1949, now total 281,768,800 pounds.

A resealing program on 1949 grain stored on farms was announced April 3, covering wheat, corn, oats, barley, grain sorghums, rye, and flaxseed. The grower who elects to reseal his grain may extend his loan until April 30, 1951 (March 31 for grain sorghums, July 31, 1951 for corn.). Growers with purchase agreements may obtain loans on 1949 crop grain.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

A proposed revision of U. S. standards for grades of frozen broccoli has been placed in clearance channels for publication in the Federal Register as a notice of proposed rule making.

Purchase of 1949 crop Irish potatoes through April 4 totaled 27,303,444 hundredweight. Of this amount 2,474,534 hundredweight went to direct distribution; 661,872 to flour; 4,240,783 to starch; 104,766 to glucose; 40,820 to dehydration; 455,514 to alcohol; 16,354,004 to livestock feed; 2,457,158 to export; and 513,993 hundredweight dumped.

Purchase of 1950 crop potatoes through April 4 totaled 135,278 hundredweight Of this amount 97,307 hundredweight went to livestock feed; 27,466 to Section 416; and 10,499 to penal institutions.

Buying of sweetpotatoes in Texas has been terminated with the total purchased amounting to 58,000 bushels, all of which went to School Lunch and welfare institutions.

(more)

(*) Contents of starred paragraphs should not be used in statements to trade or press.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH (Cont'd)

Purchase of cabbage through April 4 totaled 50,000 50-pound sacks, of which 36,500 sacks were purchased in Georgia; 9,500 in South Carolina; and 4,500 in Louisiana. All went to welfare use.

The apple purchase program terminated March 31 with a total of 3,088,277 bushels purchased at a cost of $8,166,405.

In the export subsidy programs the final total on winter pears was 132,672 boxes at a cost of $165,835. Other programs showed through the week ending April 1; apples, 1,970,600 bushels; $2,314,852; fresh oranges, 352,661 boxes; $565,888; canned single strength orange juice, 33,627 cases of No.2's; $33,851; concentrated orange juice, 34,587 gallons; $50,103.

Potato growers and handlers are invited to hearings to consider proposed amendments to Marketing Order 60, which regulates the handling of potatoes grown in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Hearings will be held in Hotel Dyckmann, Minneapolis, beginning April 24, and in the Women's Club Building, Lansing, Michigan, beginning on May 1. Amendments would place administration in hands of a committee of three growers and one handler in each state; and would provide safeguards to keep potatoes intented for special purposes from getting into regular commercial channels.

POULTRY BRANCH

Eggs out of storage don't lose quality any faster than those freshly laid, if they are of equal quality at the start. Studies carried on by BAI and PMA Poultry Branch indicate this. Report just issued.

PMA proposes that all dressed poultry and rabbits must be examined by qualified inspectors during eviscerating period to qualify for USDA grade labels. April 20 is deadline for submitting suggestions or objections.

Prices received by producers for commercial broilers declined during the past week. As a result, the average producer prices over the nation for all chickens were some lower than a week ago. The demand for poultry for the Easter holiday stimulated prices early in the week, but by the end of the week prices were some lower, especially on broilers and light fryers. Roasters continued in excellent demand with prices mostly higher.

Settings of eggs for broiler production continues to decline. During the past week the decline was especially heavy in the Delmarva area. Current settings, however, are still running 11 percent above a year ago. Chicks placed on farms for broiler production, are now beggining a downward trend due to lower settings three weeks earlier. The decline will likely continue for the next month. The number of broilers reaching marketable age will increase sharply this week and will continue to increase for the next three weeks. Marketings will then decline until mid-May when sharp increases up to record levels will be reached.

(more)

POULTRY BRANCH (Cont'd)

During the past week wholesale prices lost the gains they had made since March 15. Currently, they are generally at levels comparable to those reported for the week ending March 11. This was the week during which much of the data for the mid-month price report was collected. Farm prices in mid-March averaged 31.6 cents, or 73 percent of parity. Present wholesale prices should reflect similar prices to farmers at this time.

Recent heavy offerings of dried eggs have increased to a point where they should have a definite effect on the market. For this reason, further price declines are not anticipated. Farm prices in mid-April should average close to 75 percent of parity.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

Deliveries of food and agricultural commodities by U.S.D.A. during December, 1949, totaled 2,590 million pounds; this compares with 1,714 million pounds a month earlier. Grain and grain products made up 2,129 million pounds, with Irish potatoes making 163 million pounds. Deliveries under the ECA program made up approximately half the total and approximately 700 million pounds went to the Army for relief feeding in occupied areas.

Food Trades

Through the Plentiful Foods Program, the Branch is conducting or planning a series of special sales campaigns for milk and milk products, eggs, dry beans, and onions on a nation-wide basis, and for cabbage in the southeast, sweetpotatoes in the southwest, and turkeys in the northeast, midwest, and Pacific Coast. The Midwest turkey campaign will center in Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and St.Paul during the week of April 27.

Direct Distribution

Eight million pounds frozen dressed turkeys are now being offered to school lunch programs throughout the country. In view of the difficulties of distributing a frozen commodity certain limitations in making distribution were necessary. Only schools able to provide adequate storage space and recommended temperatures will receive turkeys. We do not anticipate that this will rule out an appreciable number of schools because frozen locker plants, butcher shops, and other storage facilities may be used for storing the turkeys. Complete instructions have been prepared and forwarded to the field on how to store turkeys and how to thaw, draw, and prepare them for cooking. Instructions on methods of cooking turkeys in quantities by roasting, steaming or stewing have also been provided.

School Lunch

Eight million children in the school lunch program received 522,000,000 meals during the period of July-December, 1949.

Schools in Springfield, Mo., recently reported serving an average of 550 free meals per day to children unable to pay an increase of about 10 per cent over

(more)

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH (Cont'd)

last year.

"The city school nurse has termed St. Peter School 'the healthiest school within the city.' We attribute this as a direct outcome of our school lunch program."

Rev. Msgr. J. Chylinski, Pastor.

LIVESTOCK BRANCH

Wool support price for 1950 will average 45.2 cents per pound, 90 per cent of parity on March 15. Price relationships between grades will be based on 1949 figures, rather than pre-war. Definite schedule of prices will be announced soon.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND INVESTIGATION

Louis Dolezel and Clarence Schuerger, of Deerbrook, Wisconsin, have been indicted by a Federal grand jury in Milwaukee, on charges of buying government-owned potatoes for use as livestock feed and re-selling them at regular commercial prices for table use. Two lots, totaling 183 bags, were involved in the transactions.

MARKETING AND FACILITIES RESEARCH BRANCH

Donald Stokes will discuss prepackaging of fresh fruits and vegetables as a marketing development on the National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, April 15. The broadcast will be carried by the full NBC network and will also feature Paul B. Dickman, well-known grower and prepackager of Ruskin, Fla.

This week a report on the wholesale produce market in Tulsa, Okla., was released for distribution. In the report the branch recommended that the present market be physically reorganized and enlarged to include additional wholesale stores for fruit and vegetable dealers and poultry and egg dealers, and sheds for truckers and farmers rather than building another market.

COMMODITY SALES

Sale of CCC commodities for export amounted to $2,311,658 from January to March 30. In dollar value, shelled peanuts, corn, barley were three biggest items.

Schedule of prices at which commodities are offered for export sale during April was announced on April 3. Some commodities are offered at "bargain" rates, and these may not be re-sold to countries using ECA dollars or other U.S. government funds. Commodities offered for sale at market prices or above may be sold to any country. Commodities offered for export include Mexican canned meat, frozen turkeys, dried whole eggs, nonfat dry milk solids, shelled peanuts, crude and refined cottonseed oil, flaxseed and raw linseed oil, dry edible beans, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghums, potatoes, potato starch, and gum rosin.

(more)

COMMODITY SALES (Cont'd)

During the same period, CCC sold $7,413,189 worth of commodities for domestic use. Butter, cheese, and cottonseed oil made up the principal items sold back to the domestic trade.

Commodities offered for domestic sale include dry skim milk, salted creamery butter, farmers stock peanuts, cottonseed oil, linseed oil, flaxseed, dry edible beans, grain sorghums, Austrian winter pea seed, wheat, oats, barley, corn, potato starch, and gum rosin.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

April 17, 1950

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

TO: All PMA Offices, Midwest Area

FROM: Vincent P. Freymann, Acting Chief, Information Branch, Midwest Area

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

Food Trades

A Special Plentiful Food Program on dry beans is being conducted on a nation-wide basis April 27 to May 3, and in the Midwest April 27 to May 10, upon the request of association of Michigan growers, shippers, handlers, and many other organizations. Stocks of dry beans on hand are estimated to be about enough to satisfy a full year's normal demand.

School Lunch

Checks were mailed last week to State Educational Agencies covering payments of National School Lunch Program funds for fourth quarter operations. In most instances, checks also included additional funds made available through reapportionment of funds not needed in a few States. The fourth quarterly payments to the States totaled $9,125,150.00 and the reapportionment amounted to $1,340,096.00, making a total payment of $10,465,246.00.

FATS AND OILS BRANCH

Vegetableoil markets continued firm last week, with reluctant sellers apparently holding off for higher prices which did not seem to materialize. A slight easing off of the market was noted at the week's end, although the market was still considered firm.

The Dallas PMA Commodity Office has sold an additional 1,740,000 pounds of crude cottonseed oil for export and 4,500,000 pounds to domestic buyers. Thus far, total sales of crude cottonseed oil by CCC have amounted to about 65,700,000 pounds, of which about 38 million pounds was for export.

Robert M. Walsh, Assistant Director of the Fats and Oils Branch, PMA, is scheduled to depart on April 29 with an American Agronomist to make a survey which will indicate the place of oilseed production in European Agriculture. Mr. Walsh plans to remain in Europe about four months, and will visit most of the ECA countries.

POULTRY BRANCH

Dried egg purchases tapered off materially last week from the record take of the previous week. The total buy was 2,973,138 pounds as compared with 3,684,498 pounds a week earlier. Cancellations last week amounted to 23,392 pounds, leaving net total purchases for the year so far at 25,270,866 pounds.

Total sales of dried eggs under the export program remain at 2,531,759 pounds while turkey sales amount to a total of 75,464 pounds. No sales of either dried eggs or turkeys were reported last week.

The Poultry Branch reports that some 40 drying plants are now offering egg powder to CCC. These plants are located as follows: Iowa,9; Minnesota, 9; Kansas, 7; Missouri, 6; Nebraska, 3; Oklahoma, 2; Texas, Illinois, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, one each.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

Cabbage purchases through April 10 totaled 96,000 50-pound sacks. Of this amount 75,000 sacks were purchased in Georgia; 13,500 in South Carolina; and 7,500 in Louisiana.

Purchase of 1949 crop potatoes through April 11 totaled 31,801,080 hundredweight. Of this amount, 2,524,525 hundredweight went to direct distribution; 662,782 to flour; 4,553,410 to starch; 104,766 to glucose; 40,820 to dehydration; 459,649 to alcohol; 17,782,879 to livestock feed; 2,807,631 to export; 2,863,898 were dumped; and 720 hundredweight went to other uses.

Purchase of 1950 crop potatoes through April 11 totaled 148,856 hundredweight. Of this amount, 107,582 hundredweight went to livestock feed; 29,819 to section 416; and 11,455 hundredweight to penal institutions.

The apple surplus removal program terminated March 31, with figures now indicating total purchase of 3,093,863 at a cost of $8,181,487.

Export payment programs, through April 8, stood at:

Apples, 2,009,053 bushels; $2,362,918
Fresh oranges, 419,471 boxes; $676,124
Canned single strength orange juice, 33,627 cases No. 2's; $33,851
Concentrated orange juice, 35,587 gallons; $50,103.

A revision of U. S. standards for grades of canned spinach was published in the Federal Register April 11 and will become effective for use on May 12, 1950.

DAIRY BRANCH

Butter and cheese, in limited quantities, were added last week to the list of commodities acquired under price support which are available for distribution to various Federal agencies and for donation to School lunch programs, the Bureau of Indian affairs, and to both public and private welfare agencies for the assistance of needy persons in this country. The amounts available were set at 15 million pounds for butter and 5 million pounds for cheese. These supplies will be offered free of cost to eligible agencies at point of storage.

Milk market administrators were appointed two weeks ago to administer the new Federal orders for the Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla, milk marketing areas. Kenneth M. Fell, marketing specialist in the office of the Kansas City milk market administrator, was appointed to the Oklahoma City post. Wendell M. Costello, acting market administrator for the Dayton-Springfield, Ohio Federal order was named to the Tulsa position.

Price-Support Purchases and Sales, Week Ending April 15
(Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases April 10-15	Total 1950 Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of April 15
Butter A	4,190,587	15,653,250	(
Butter B	185,167	289,598	(101,975,754
Butter C	none	none	(
	4,375,754	15,942,848	
Cheese	1,955,581	2,934,304	22,000,000
Spray milk solids	7,098,455	77,467,409	(
Roller milk solids	4,202,895	35,020,833	(227,200,000 (
	11,301,350	112,488,242	

Product	Sales to Trade April 10-15	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade
Butter A	none	257,829
Butter B	none	5,653,485
Butter C	none	630,741
		6,542,055
Cheese A	18,036	5,186,288
Cheese B	24,523	931,275
Cheese C	none	332,868
	42,559	6,450,431

TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING BRANCH

Announcement was made by the Branch that CCC will receive offers for the manufacture of approximately 3,000 perforated floors and 2,000 ventilating duct systems to be installed in grain storage structures recently purchased. Specifications require that this equipment be so designed as to supply a uniform distribution of air to the building and through the grain. This equipment should provide an adequate method for drying or cooling the stored grain when necessary and should assure maintenance of storage stocks in a good condition.

Spot inspections are being made of all frozen turkeys now in storage prior to transfer of these stocks to section 32. If any marked drop in grade since previous inspection is found, complete inspection will be made. Arrangements are also being made for the inspection of all stocks of 1948-49 dried eggs, butter over 6 months old, and cheese over 3 months old.

(*) The first requisitions for export distribution under Section 416 have been received. Three requisitions for delivery to the International Rescue Committee (FOB warehouse) of 600,000 pounds of dried eggs, 600,000 pounds of roller dried milk, and 1,800,000 pounds of spray dried milk have been received. The first shipment of 1,000,000 pounds is to be from New York during the latter part of April. The second shipment is expected to be from Chicago at a later date, both destined for Germany.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND INVESTIGATION

An indictment in three counts was returned in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin charging Louis Dolezal and Clarence Schuerger, Deerbrook, Wisconsin, with willfully disposing of and converting to their own use potatoes which were the property of CCC.

A civil complaint was filed in the United StatesDistrict Court for the Southern District of Indiana against Highway Butter & Egg Company, Inc., New York Central Railroad Company, and Century Indemnity Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, seeking to recover judgment against the defendant determined liable in the amount of $14,650, plus interest and costs of the action. The complaint alleged breach of contract on the part of the Highway Butter and Egg Company, Inc., by its failure to protect eggs in accordance with good commercial practice and by improper refrigeration before their delivery to CCC, against the surety, Central Indemnity Company, and against the New York Central Railroad Company for loss in transit.

A civil complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan against Morris I. Goldfeder, of the North Star Cheese Factory, North Star, Michigan, seeking to recover judgment against the defendant in the sum of $2,414.52 with interest and costs of the action representing subsidies paid in error for the period December 1942 to April, 1943, inclusive.

(*) Contents of starred paragraph not to be used in statements to trade or press.

RELEASES OF THE WEEK

April 6 - Announce May-June Egg Price Support Level.

April 6 - Variations in Egg Grades and Regulations in the United States Classified.

April 6 - Wheat Agreement Sales, March 29, 1950-April 4, 1950.

April 7 - USDA to Purchase Lard for Use in Japan.

April 10- USDA Announces 1950 Crop Flaxseed Support Price of $2.82, Minneapolis Basis.

April 10- Charges Against 1950 Sugar Quotas Through March 31, 1950.

April 10- CCC Grain, Oilseed, and Oil Purchases for Week Ended April 7.

April 11- Week's Inspected Hog Slaughter 18% Over a Year Ago.

April 11- Support Prices for 1950-Crop Dry Edible Beans Announced.

April 13- May Food Supplies in Store Include Much Pork, Chicken, and Many Eggs.

April 13 -No Price Support On 1950 Production of Chickens and Turkeys.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

April 25, 1950

MIDWEST INFORMATION SUMMARY

To: PMA Offices, Midwest Area

From: John C. Baker, Chief, Information Branch, Midwest Area JCB

DAIRY BRANCH

Butter and cheese were added on April 14 to list of foods available to federal and state agencies and institutions, school lunch programs, and public and private welfare agencies in this country. Fifteen million pounds of butter and five million pounds of cheese are available. Recipients must pay freight and handling costs.

Price-Support Purchases and Sales, Week Ended April 15:

(Figures in Pounds)

Product	Purchases Week Ended Apr. 15	Total 1950 Purchases	1949-50 Purchases Unsold as of April 15.
Butter A	4,187,416	15,650,080	(
Butter B	185,167	289,598	(102,000,000
Butter C	none	none	
	4,372,583	15,939,678	
Cheese	1,955,582	2,934,305	21,900,000
Spray milk solids	7,096,430	77,465,385	(
Roller milk solids	4,168,130	34,986,068	(221,100,000 (
	11,264,560	112,451,453	

Product	Sales to Trade	1950 Sales to Domestic Trade
Butter A	none	257,829
Butter B	none	5,653,485
Butter C	none	630,741
		6,542,055
Cheese A	18,036	5,186,288
Cheese B	24,523	931,275
Cheese C	none	332,868
	42,559	6,450,431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

More than 63 million pounds of food, valued at $7,447,000 was distributed to schools, public institutions, and welfare agencies in 11 Midwestern states during the first three months of 1950. Approximately 7 million pounds were purchased from school lunch funds, with the remainder made available through price support operations. Approximately 2,473,000 school children, and more than 1,000,000 other persons were included among recipients.

Under the provisions of Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, to date, nonprofit school lunch programs and charitable institutions and welfare families have received approximately 67,000,000 pounds of potatoes, 4,000,000 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids and 2,000,000 pounds of dried eggs.

The Federal government once more will pay shipping costs on 1949-crop potatoes, under authority contained in a recent act of Congress. Previously, recipients of potatoes have been required to pay shipping and handling costs. Schools, federal and state institutions, public and private welfare organizations, and nonprofit hospitals are eligible recipients.

Butter and cheese were added on April 14 to list of foods available to federal and state agencies and institutions, school lunch programs, and public and private welfare agencies in this country. Fifteen million pounds of butter and five million pounds of cheese are available. Recipients must pay freight and handling costs.

Food Trades -- Special Plentiful Foods campaigns on turkeys are being conducted in four cities, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and St. Paul, with special emphasis during the week-end of April 27.

Dry beans are subject of nation-wide Special Plentiful Foods campaign during same period. Particular emphasis is being placed in Midwest on beans produced in Michigan.

SUGAR BRANCH

A meeting of the International Sugar Council will be called soon at London, with a view to developing an International Sugar Agreement designed to meet postwar world sugar problems. Operating provisions of the International Sugar Agreement of 1937 were suspended during the war, but the Council continued in existence. The Agreement of 1937 provided quotas for the exporting countries in times of surplus supplies, so as to distribute the burden of the surplus carryover. It also provided for the compilation of statistics as to world supplies and requirements. Twenty-one exporting and major importing countries were members of the Agreement. PMA sugar officials have been soliciting the views of individuals and groups representing United States domestic producers, processors, distributors and consumers, preparatory to formulating recommendations or proposals for a new Agreement. To this end an informal meeting was held at Washington last December, following the hearings dealing with United States consumption requirements in 1950. Another meeting was held last Monday. It is expected the London meeting will be held in June.

POULTRY BRANCH

Off to Paris on May 2 will be W. D. Termohlen, Director of the Poultry Branch, to confer with the National French Committee concerning arrangements for the ninth World's Poultry Congress. The Congress will be held in Paris in August 1951. Mr. Termohlen, is president of the World's Poultry Science Association, which will sponsor the Congress.

Dried egg purchases at 4,237,448 pounds this week were the heaviest for any week so far this year. Cancellations amounted to 152,067 pounds, leaving total purchases for the year so far at 29,356,247 pounds.

Sales for export amounted to 23,120 pounds at 30 cents f.o.b. the warehouses, making total sales under this program 2,554,879 pounds.

No sales of turkeys were made this week, total sales remaining at 75,465 pounds.

FATS AND OILS BRANCH

The San Francisco PMA Commodity Office sold eight cars of refined cottonseed oil for April delivery at 15-1/8 cents per pound. Bids for refined oil in California far exceeded April availability in that area. On the other hand there were no sales of refined oil in Texas where the major portion of CCC stocks are located. Crude oil available for April delivery was disposed of in a very short time after the April 3 announcement.

PMA has entered the market for inedible tallow for shipment to Japan.

There have been large-scale requests in recent months for import permits for peanuts, principally Chinese. All such requests, regardless of quantity, source, or type of peanuts have been denied. The principal commodities for which import permits are being denied under authority of Public Law 155, 81st Congress include: butter, flaxseed, soybeans, lard, tallow, cottonseed, sunflower seed, linseed oil, soybean oil, peanut oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower seed oil, and rice.

As of April 8, 1950, CCC had made the following purchases and sales of peanuts under the 1949 crop price support program:

	Purchases	Sales for Crushing	Sales for Edible Uses	Sales for Export
Farmers' stock peanuts (tons)	37,251	19,420	13,824	-
No.2 shelled peanuts (lbs.)	404,257,180	335,069,659	-	69,187,521

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH

Cabbage purchases through April 18 totaled 75,000 50-pound sacks in Georgia, 17,000 sacks in South Carolina, and 10,500 in Louisiana.

Purchase of 1949 crop potatoes through April 18 totaled 34,082,307 hundredweight. Of this amount, 2,591,920 hundredweight went to direct distribution; 663,142 to flour; 4,821,971 to starch; 104,766 to glucose; 40,820 to dehydration; 459,649 to alcohol; 18,957,883 to livestock feed; 3,182,657 to export; 3,259,139 were dumped; and 360 hundredweight went to other uses.

Purchase of 1950 crop potatoes through April 18 totaled 148,856 hundredweight. Of this amount 107,582 hundredweight went to livestock feed; 29,819 to Section 416; and 11,435 to penal institutions.

A proposed revision of the U.S. standards for grades of frozen broccoli was published in the Federal Register as a notice of proposed rule making on April 20.

Hearings on a potato marketing order and agreement to cover Wyoming and 13 counties of western Nebraska will be held on May 4, at Torrington, Wyoming. If evidence at the hearing justifies a program, the proposed order will be submitted to referendum among potato growers.

A similar hearing was announced for May 1 at Kearney, Nebraska, dealing with potatoes produced in 11 counties of Central Nebraska.

Earlier announcements deal with hearings to be held in Minneapolis, beginning April 24, and Lansing, Michigan, beginning May 1, to consider amendments to the marketing order covering potatoes produced in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

On the basis of hearings held in late February, PMA has recommended a marketing agreement and order to regulate the handling of potatoes produced on Long Island, New York. Objections and exceptions will be received until May 1, after which the Secretary of Agriculture will announce his decision; if favorable, the question will be submitted to a referendum vote by potato producers; a favorable vote by two thirds of the producers voting is necessary to make the order effective.

OFFICE OF AUDIT

The Office of Audit recently completed two audits of Federal-State Cooperative Agreements (Fruits and Vegetables) in Texas and Idaho. The first audit of this type was made last year, also in Idaho. An Agreement in Arizona is scheduled next for audit. These cooperative agreements provide for inspection services of fresh fruit and vegetables to growers and shippers.

The first meeting of a recently-appointed Audit Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held in Washington May 8, 9, and 10. The committee includes the following county auditors who work out of State PMA Offices: William O. Richardson, Alabama; Charles Ross, California; Clayton J. Shelton,

(more)

OFFICE OF AUDIT - Continued

Maryland; S. V. Swain, Texas; and Jess I. Wiuff, Iowa. Principal function of the committee is to advise the Office of Audit in the preparation of county office audit procedures and instructions.

GRAIN BRANCH

Support prices for winter cover crop seeds were announced on April 17. Support level on seed of hairy vetch was broken down by states.

Exports of grain and grain products during the nine months, July 1949 through March, 1950, were estimated at 392,487,000 bushels (grain and grain products) compared with 524,716,000 bushels during the comparable period a year earlier. The drop came in wheat and wheat products, 237,104,000 bushels, which was 154,111,000 bushels less than a year earlier. Exports of corn and corn products were larger, 90,453,000 bushels compared with 68,320,000 a year earlier. Total of oats, barley, grain sorghums, and rye were about equal to the nine month period a year earlier.

Only grain purchased by CCC during the week of April 10-14 was 211,241 bushels of rye. Total of all grains purchased since last July, 64,826,765 bushels.

Sales of wheat under International Wheat Agreement during week of April 5-11 totaled 927,000 bushels. Main purchasers were Denmark, Belgium, Philippines, and United Kingdom. Cumulative total since August 1, 1949, 97,856,000 bushels of wheat and flour.

Revisions of standards for dry edible beans were announced by USDA on April 14, to be effective May 1. Principal revision sets up grade requirements for Cranberry and Blackeye beans; previously they had been included with other classes.

LIVESTOCK BRANCH

PMA announced on April 19 that bids are invited for government purchase of 1,321,000 pounds of lard, for shipment to Okinawa. Shipments to be in carload lots.

Meat production under federal inspection, week of April 15, totaled 278 million pounds, compared with 272 the preceding week, and 257 a year earlier. Cattle slaughter, 230,000 was 7 percent over preceding week, and 1 percent over year ago. Hog slaughter 1,026,000 head, about same as preceding week, but 23 percent above year ago. Sheep and lambs slaughtered, 198,000 head, compared with 210,000 preceding week, and 168,000 year ago.

PMA announced on April 14 prices for various classes and grades of wool under 1950 wool price support program. Prices are based on national average support level of 45.2 cents per pound. In general, prices for fine wools are higher than last year, while prices for coarse wools are lower.

* * *